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[Carrying the Torch of Colbert: An Anthology of
Right-wing Satire]

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Security in a World of Insecurity (and Inaccuracy)

“Lock the front door, oh, boy!”
CCR, “Lookin’ Out my Back Door”

Unlock that front door, America; it’s time we sat down and had a heart-to-heart. Yes, those of you who know with your hearts, this talk’s for you. I’ll deal with you logic-lovers and head-users later.

I know there’s been a lot of [anxiety about guns](#) in this great country. Some say that guns kill people, some say people kill people, others don’t talk at all as they reach for their side-arms. But don’t worry. Once we’ve finished this chat, [no one will be coming for your guns](#). Because if there’s one thing I know like a bullet hitting me in the gut, it’s that the solution to gun crime isn’t fewer guns. It’s *more* guns.

You liberals out there might cry out in despair at that statement, but try and deny this: America was founded on the backs of the free citizens with their freely owned guns.

The hunting rifles and muskets of our forefathers were the [original line of defense](#) against America’s first and greatest enemy: the British. Yes, I shudder at the words too. Private citizens used their own guns to form militias and beat back the Beatles’ forefathers. But we’re not letting our guard down, no sir. We’ve been stockpiling for the lobsterbacks’ third assault ever since.

It saddens my heart to say that even today, our freedoms are under assault. Gun regulations are an affront to American liberty. We must get rid of the ridiculous ideas of [background checks](#) to prevent former criminals with violent records and mentally ill citizens from buying guns. They need them just as much as we do. After all, there are former criminals and mentally ill people with guns out there! [Limiting magazine sizes](#) is just a thinly veiled stepping block in the road to tyranny. Give them one inch (or bullet, I

suppose), and soon the FDA will tell me I can't buy apples loaded with "toxins," even though I prefer the tang of pesticides.

We need to stop government oversight from destroying these sacred liberties. Say it with me now: "Any regulations on my ability to unload must go!" Gun-locks, safety mechanisms, gun safes: all say "socialism" to my ears. Join me, and tell the government to remove anything preventing us from sending a hail of bullets at everything that threatens us.

After all, there are a lot of threats out there: international terror, domestic terror, crime, cybercrime, Americans with guns, the list goes on. In a world where everyone is already armed, security can only be felt with a finger on the trigger. That hacker will think twice if he knows there's a loaded Colt .44 pointed at the screen. Don't believe me? Set "Colt44" as your password. He'll get the idea (and your credit history).

"Hey Joe, I said where you goin' with that gun in your hand"
Jimi Hendrix, "Hey Joe"

Breathe easy. Joe "Big Government" is going nowhere with your gun. Fortunately for all us patriots, there are champions out there battling any freedom-sucking regulations that come between us and our shields of freedom. I speak, of course, of the gun lobby. In this David vs. Goliath struggle against the behemoth of "rational" government laws, David has ditched his slingshot for an AR-15.

Special interest groups, such as the [National Rifle Association](#), have been defending our rights to own [assault weapons](#), as memorialized in the [Second Amendment](#). And like the members of the NRA, I stand ready to join my state's "well-regulated Militia" once the redcoats decide to finish the job. After all, a professional, disciplined army smacks of more government overreach.

Standing with the gun lobby, the [gun industry](#) has our back. As our fears grow in this chaotic and violent world, the industry stands ready to supply the proportional amount of firearms to compensate. Think of it like your mother doling out vitamins when you were a kid. Just don't swallow these.

The logic lovers will argue that the industry is thriving off our fears and that the sale of guns is actually fueling the same fears that drive us to buy more. To that Marxist arm-waving, I will just point to the magic bullet: the free market. Just like my gun, it always makes me feel better, even if I have no idea how it actually works.

“Behind the gun I’ll make my final stand”
Bad Company, “Bad Company”

As you lose ground, you brain-buffs will make your final stand behind [statistics](#) about gun crime and mass shootings—no doubt something about socialist Europe and how few shooting deaths there are per year. Well, go on, keep clinging to your delusional ideals of “health,” “civility,” and “peace.” Your facts may tell you one thing, but my gut tells me another.

A democracy relies on a well-informed and well-armed citizenry. After all, “civil discourse” and “civil war” share the same first word. Let's see any of you fact-clingers try to dispute that.

I call on all my fellow true Americans to make a stand. Stand for freedom. Stand for democracy. Stand for America. Just be sure to duck if you see a flash; the neighbors got new side-arms for the kids.

The Great Wall of America

*“But it was only fantasy
The wall was too high
As you can see”
Pink Floyd, “Hey You”*

Hey, you! Yes, you behind *that* wall.

It’s me again, America. I must hand it to you—every time things seem to have finally calmed down, you find another issue that needs a good old-fashioned dose of patriotic instinct. So all you reason-ravers, skedaddle. I’ll get to you bunch later.

Recently, the improvement of the [border fence](#) on the Mexican-US border (Wall I) has become the (entire) [platform](#) of a presidential candidate. I don’t want to get overly political, but his name rhymes with Tronald Dump.

He claims that he’s going to build “[the best wall](#)” this nation has ever seen. Look it up – I didn’t. But I disagree. Trump isn’t willing to go anywhere *near* far enough to secure Uncle Sam’s borders. If America and the Constitution are going to be truly safe, we’re going to need a few more walls.

At this point, some in the freedom-killing conspiracy known as the Left may accuse me of being a [xenophobic racist](#). I beg to differ. My anxiety does not discriminate; I fear all foreign cultures equally. My gut tells me that’s what [social equality’s](#) all about.

Now let’s start laying down some blueprints.

*“Do you still recall the frightful night we crossed the Rio Grande”
ABBA, “Fernando”*

America remembers all right, ABBA. And we’re not going to repeat that mistake with our northern neighbor. Celine Dion and Michael Bublé have already infiltrated!

Wall II: Canada. The border between the US and Canada is the world's [longest unguarded border](#). But I don't see good will and mutual trust, no sir. I see 4,000 miles of freedom being siphoned into the maw of socialized medicine.

Their peaceful ways and [friendly diplomacy](#) are all the more reason to be suspicious. Think of it like that one friend you have who never fails to be supportive and cheery. *Not once*. You can't help but wonder: *What are they really up to? What's their angle here?*

I've got it all figured out. The Canucks are forcing us to let our guard down, so they can launch a surprise attack to seize all of our coveted liberty in one strike! But we're going to keep them trapped up there where they belong, with their [higher levels of happiness](#) and [unspoiled wilderness](#) and [higher life expectancy](#). Yeah, that'll teach 'em.

"From sea to shining sea"
Katherine Lee Bates, "America, The Beautiful"

Shining seas are well known porous borders, so how can we defend our beachfront properties from walrus attacks?

Wall III: The Pacific. Just think about it (or better yet, *feel* about it). You know who is on the other side of this ocean? [Japan](#), [China](#), [North Korea](#), [Russia](#), [Vietnam](#): all former or current enemies. After all the democracy we've exported to these countries (along with a healthy dose of [Agent Orange](#)), I'm sure they want us to stay out of their business behind this wall as much as we do.

Wall IV: The Atlantic. I know what the reasoned-citizenry will be saying right about now: "Hitler already tried to build an [Atlantic Wall](#), and we all know how that turned out."

Just a minute, Mr. Historian. You're functioning off facts, and facts have a well-known bias against gut reactions. But I'll meet you on your level. The original wall fell because America *wanted* it to at [Normandy](#).

Okay, and the British.

Fine, fine, the Canadians too.

The point is, now one of these three wants the wall to stay *up*. I'm sure the [original builders](#) would approve.

"All in all, [we need] just another brick in the wall"
Pink Floyd, "Another Brick in the Wall"

Speaking of bricks in the wall, now's the point where you *logic-lovers* can pick the paper up again. I'll take each of your counterarguments in turn, and show you why they feel wrong.

You'll accuse me of being an isolationist. Maybe so, but some of our greatest presidents were isolationists: [Woodrow Wilson](#), [Franklin Delano Roosevelt](#). Sure, they're remembered for how they later got involved in the world and helped win the world wars, but let's not forget that earlier part.

Besides, you liberals should support isolationism. You're always bellyaching about the trillions spent on our [two successful foreign wars](#) and [overseas bases](#). Well then, we'll just pull back all our forces and post our arsenal of democracy on the American Wall. We'll save on shipping costs alone. We may even qualify for free two-day shipping with Amazon Prime!

Walls have been defending man's treasures and his property rights for thousands of years. From the Walls of Jericho to the Berlin Wall, they've formed a reliable defense

against the chaotic world beyond. But America has forgotten this lesson until recently, and we've left her liberty and fast food chains vulnerable.

So build your "best wall," Mr. Trump, but don't take too long. We've got another 10,000 miles to go.

The Greatest (Broken) Military on Earth

*“200 million guns are loaded
Satan cries, “Take aim!””*
CCR, “Run Through the Jungle”

Yes, the defender of liberty is locked and *loaded*. This time, I’m going to stand up for a proud facet of American glory that, for once, needs help defending itself. I’m talking, of course, of the bastion of independence, the arsenal of democracy: the American military.

Back in 2015, all the Republican presidential candidates could agree on one [thing](#): our military is broken. It seems that it’s really let itself go in the last eight years.

And I agree. We only outmatch the next [10 countries combined](#) in military spending. But what about the rest of the world? If we’re not outspending all 195 other countries on the planet, are we *truly* safe? With all these weapons we have, they’re going to be a bit suspicious of us.

Besides, the American military has brought us some of our greatest national moments in history. It deserves our wholehearted support (and a new nuclear submarine or two). Let me count the ways.

In the War of 1812, we gave Her Majesty such a mauling at the Battle of New Orleans that the resulting glory covered over the fact that the [peace treaty](#) had already been signed. By the way, sorry about that, Paul McCartney.

The Mexican-American war began as a dispute over a river. By the end of the fighting, we liberated a third of Mexico’s territory and proved that we could be good to the Rio Grande as our border. And hey, if we hadn’t picked a fight with an unprepared foe, where would [“the best wall”](#) go? The Nueces River just doesn’t have the same ring to it. You’re welcome, Mr. Trump.

Next, the Spanish-American War gave us the chance to drive the Spaniards out of the Western Hemisphere for good. In the ensuing brawl, we won a little-known base by the name of [Guantanamo Bay](#), and the US has been a leader in human rights ever since.

And let's not forget the Vietnam War. After dropping concentrated [democracy](#) (and just a smidgen of napalm) from our B-52s, we pulled out our troops and let the liberty shells take effect. I think history will show who the [winner](#) was.

You liberals complain that we are holding a gun to the world and breeding [resentment](#), but national security demands it. Deny this: there are a lot of resentful countries out there. Your words, not mine. Honestly, after that illustrious history I just described, I have no idea what they're so upset about.

*"There's plenty good money to be made by supplying the Army with the
tools of the trade"*
Country Joe and the Fish, "Vietnam Song"

You know who agrees with me? The [military-industrial complex](#) that makes the tools of the trade (and a lot of money, for some reason).

I wouldn't try going against these guys; they have a *lot* of weapons. Besides, the defense industry is a [job creator](#). If you want economic growth, invest in an industry that produces armaments that are meant to be destroyed. Therefore, we'll always need more, which means more jobs. It's the perfect business model!

The leftists out there will point out that we've been at war [223 years out of our 240 year history](#), but I say that's good business strategy. We're just boosting demand. Think of it like a really corrupt money laundering scheme, except this one is *legal*.

Finally, you liberals will bring up the last two [*successful*](#) foreign wars in [*Iraq and Afghanistan*](#). You'll complain that the wars dragged on for a decade and [*cost trillions of dollars*](#) and [*thousands of lives*](#).

Clearly, you haven't been paying attention: George W. Bush, our greatest president, declared that the [*mission was accomplished*](#) back in 2003. I know because it was on a giant banner on the aircraft carrier. Hey, the administration has never misled us *before*.

*"Some folks inherit star spangled eyes
Ooh, they send you down to war, Lord"
CCR, "Fortunate Son"*

If the wars were less than victorious in your star-spangled eyes, then point that finger at *yourselves*. Yes, you who kept raising questions: Did the administration [*forge the reason for invading?*](#) Is this worth the lives and the costs? What is this *gaining* us? You obviously forgot: if we ask questions, the Taliban wins.

Remember, liberals, this one's on you. Think about this next time you go raising your facts and your "concerns" about America's foreign policy. Better yet, listen more to your gut next time. President Bush did, and he never led us astray.

Here's to another 223 years, America.

Afterword

After seeing the commercial success of suspiciously moderate rival Stephen Colbert's *I am America (And So Can You!)*, I practiced the proud free market tradition of stealing my opponent's strategies and repackaging them. If the soda industry does it, why can't I? The song lyrics used in these psalms of freedom were (ahem) *inspired* by Colbert's use of popular culture music to subscript his chapter headings. I did him one better and sprinkled classic rock *throughout* the text like a Nighthawk stealth bomber dropping smart bombs over Baghdad. Anything to show my patriotism.